

61 20. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising encrypting by the reservation/IT system the key to be communicated to the wireless terminal.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 16, 2003. Claims 1-10 have been canceled. New claims 11-20 have been added. Thus, claims 11-20 are now pending.

New claim 11 is respectfully submitted to define over DeLorme and Pinzon for at least the following reasons.

New claim 11 requires that "the reservation/IT system is arranged to

- generate a key upon receiving the reservation and/or check-in request,
- communicate the key to the wireless terminal, and
- communicate the remotely operable door lock information corresponding to the key, and

wherein the remotely operable door lock is arranged to:

- obtain wirelessly the key from the wireless terminal when the second wireless device and the first wireless device are mutually in-range without a user having to press any keys of the wireless terminal, and
- actuate the lock device if the key obtained from the wireless terminal corresponds to the information received from the reservation/IT system."

In other words, the invention of claim 11 in the context of controlling a lock or the like in a hotel for example, provides a solution which need not require manual operation

of a portable device as an initiative for obtaining electronic key(s) for locking/unlocking a lock. In other words, the invention of claim 1 allows for *hands-free* locking and unlocking of a remotely operable door lock, which is highly convenient for a hotel guest or the like approaching a hotel room while carrying luggage.

In contrast, as the Office Action admits, DeLorme is entirely unrelated to hotel door locks. Recognizing this deficiency in DeLorme, the Office Action cites Pinzon. However, Pinzon discloses a door locking/unlocking system which requires the initiative of a user. In particular, in Pinzon any transfer of a code from the portable wireless device to the receiver comes as a result of the user operating a push-button or keypad of the portable wireless device. This of course is undesirable.

In contrast, the invention of claim 11 allows the remotely operable door lock to obtain wirelessly the key from the wireless terminal when the second wireless device and the first wireless device are mutually in-range *without a user having to press any keys of the wireless terminal*, so that the lock device can be actuated if the key obtained from the wireless terminal corresponds to the information received from the reservation/IT system. Both DeLorme and Pinzon fail to disclose or suggest this aspect of claim 11. Thus, even if the two references were combined as alleged in the Office Action, the invention of claim 11 still would not be met.

Claim 16 requires "communicating the key from the reservation/IT system to the wireless terminal, communicating information corresponding to the key from the reservation/IT system to the remotely operable door lock, obtaining wirelessly by the remotely operable door lock the key from the wireless terminal when the second wireless

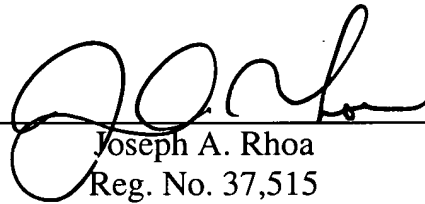
device and the first wireless device are mutually in-range, and actuating the lock device if the key obtained by the remotely operable door lock from the wireless terminal corresponds to the information received from the reservation/IT system." Again, the cited art fails to disclose or suggest these aspects of claim 16.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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